Projected Growth Of Trade During 2006-07

877. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the projected growth of trade during 2006-2007 in view of many bilateral agreements concluded during 2005;

(b) how far these bilateral agreements will enable India to secure high technology and promote joint ventures during 2006-2007; and

(c) as SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade Agreement) has taken concrete shape, what percentage of increase in regional trade is expected during 2006-2007 due to its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) One of the important components of the bilateral agreements signed so far is tariff concessions on selected products. Such agreements are expected to result in augmentation of overal trade over a period of time. No specific projection of growth of trade can, however, be made as a result of these agreements for 2006-07.

(b) Joint ventures are promoted by the industry of the partner countries. Bilateral trade agreements only act as facilitators.

(c) Operationalisation of SAFTA from 1st July, 2006 is expected to boost intra SAARC trade but the percentage of increase cannot be quantified at this stage.

Constitution of Inter-ministerial task force on exporters' Issues

878. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to constitute an inter-ministerial task force to resolve the issues of exporters in the country; and

(b) if so, when the task force will be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Government is

committed to resolve various issues relating to exports through better inter Ministerial coordination. In this regard, the Government has agreed to set up an Inter Ministerial Group, comprising of the Finance Minister and the Commerce & Industry Minister, which will meet at periodic intervals, to look into the grievances of the exporters.

GoMs on FDI

879. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a high power group of Ministers (GoMs) on Foreign Direct Investment;

(b) if so, the details of composition of the GoMs;

(c) whether GoMs is meeting at long intervals and several cases of FDIs in various sectors remained undecided; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to complete the task of GoMs in a time bound programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) A Group of Minister (GoMs) was constituted to consider specific proposals related to review of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy. Based on the recommendations of GoM, decisions have since been taken by the Government which have been notified on 10.2.2006.

Sino-India trade

880. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sino-India trade in 2004 was $13.6 billion;

(b) whether it is also a fact that road connectivity with Myanmar will boost economic cooperation with China and other fast growing South-East Asian countries; and

(c) if so, whether Government have any proposal to link North-East States with Myanmar?